(b) The violations were mainly due to:

(i) Non-submission of monthly reports on transactions and movement of explosives.

(ii) Improper accounting of explosives.

(iii) Possession of explosives in excess of licensed capacity without permission.

(iv) Non-adherence of safety distances prescribed for magazines and manufacturing building.

(v) Non-rectification of defects.

(vi) Supply of explosives to unauthorised persons.

(vii) Accidents, thefts and loss of explosives from licensed premises.

(c) Apart from officers of the Department of Explosives, the district authorities are also empowered to grant licences for manufacture, possession, use and sale of explosives in their area of jurisdiction. Authorities of the district administration up to the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, besides officers of the Department of Explosives have been given powers for search and seizure. Whenever violations of the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 1983 are reported, the licences are immediately suspended/ cancelled.

Export of Non-Traditional Items

3107. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the performance of the exports of non-traditional items during last three years; and

(b) the details of steps taken to boost exports of non-traditional items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) India is exporting many value added and non-traditional items. The composition of our export basket is changing to non-traditional items. The exports of the Principal commodities as per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics for the year 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and April-December, 1999-2000 in US $ terms is as under :—

US $ million

Items	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*	1999-2000* (April-Dec)
Ores and minerals	1172	1061	891	602
Sports goods	78	81	72	49
Chemical products	4103	4551	4180	3403
Engineering goods	4055	4435	3804	3388
Electronic hardware	784	760	499	437
Project goods	53	82	49	15
Petroleum products	482	353	89	30
Plantation	694	961	952	553
Agriculture products	4596	4237	3952	2581
Marine products	1129	1207	1038	890
Leather & manufacture	1606	1657	1652	1162
Gems & jewellery	4753	5346	5904	5164
Sports goods	78	81	72	49
Textiles	8045	8505	8411	6561
Handicraft	476	526	626	540
Carpets	591	546	535	465
Cotton raw	444	221	53	16

* The data are provisional.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.